



Greater Birmingham Convention & Visitors Bureau

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20590

RE: FY2023 RAISE Grant Application – Birmingham Urban Trail + Multimodal Corridor

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

The Greater Birmingham Convention & Visitors Bureau (GBCVB) strongly supports the RAISE grant application “Birmingham Urban Trail + Multimodal Corridor Birmingham Civil Rights Crossroads: Reconnecting Historic Neighborhoods Through Active Mobility” which is the result of a collaboration between the City of Birmingham, the Birmingham Jefferson County Transit Authority, Freshwater Land Trust, Urban Impact, REV Birmingham, and other local stakeholders.

This corridor will celebrate, honor, and revitalize the Smithfield neighborhood, the west side of Birmingham, and the Civil Rights District. It will be the spine of a growing multimodal transportation network, providing safe and equitable options via an urban trail and Complete Streets and creating a more walkable, bikeable, safe, connected, and livable community. This project is highlighted in many existing plans, including the Northwest Quadrant Plan and City Center Master Plan, and as a key corridor in the Red Rock Trail Action Plan.

The GBCVB’s mission is to generate economic development through travel to Jefferson County Alabama. Millions of visitors come to our city each year for conventions, business travel, and to visit the Civil Rights District where protestors in the 1960’s changed the course of our nation. More specifically, the Civil Rights District is one of Jefferson County’s most important and significant tourist sites, generating income that helps to sustain our region.

The proposed “Birmingham Urban Trail + Multimodal Corridor Birmingham Civil Rights Crossroads: Reconnecting Historic Neighborhoods Through Active Mobility” will not only enhance the visitor experience of the national monument, but will help spark additional investment within downtown Birmingham and our surrounding municipalities that will make the Birmingham region an attractive place to live, work, and visit. Additionally, as a city with limited transit options for visitors without a car, an improved street-grid that prioritizes the safety of walkers and cyclists will provide important infrastructure that has been missing from our region.

By supporting these efforts, USDOT can showcase a project that aligns closely with its objectives under the Biden Administration’s objectives, including enhancing access to opportunities for historically marginalized communities, creating an equitable transportation system that works for everyone, and transitioning to a more environmentally conscience network that prioritizes non-motorized users. This project will deliver healthy, innovative, resilient, and integrated transportation options for residents and visitors of the City of Birmingham and Jefferson County.

Thank you for considering our application for RAISE Program funding.

Sincerely,


J. John Oros
President and CEO



950 22nd Street North, Suite 550 | Birmingham, Alabama 35203-1139
(205) 458.8000 | (800) 458.8085 | fax: (205) 458.8086 inbirmingham.com